



Don Nickles, Chairman  
Contact: Gayle Osterberg 202-224-6011

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## **SENATE PASSES 2004 BUDGET RESOLUTION; SUPPORTS JOBS AND GROWTH PACKAGE**

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Senate Friday passed a \$2.2 trillion Budget Resolution for FY 2004, including a \$350 billion jobs and growth package and full funding for homeland security and defense.

The budget passed 56-44 with bipartisan support.

The Senate-passed budget addresses the most critical national priorities now: keeping America safe at home and abroad, growing the economy and creating jobs. In addition, the budget keeps the government's promises to seniors, children and veterans. Deficits decline over time as the economy grows stronger and threats abroad are addressed.

"We've cleared a major hurdle today," Senate Budget Chairman Don Nickles said. "The Senate did not pass a budget last year, and we were handicapped because of it. This Congress has many challenges ahead. The economy is still sluggish, the war on terrorism continues and many important programs must be renewed. I am grateful to my colleagues on the Budget Committee for their leadership over the past weeks in making sure we have a blueprint as Congress addresses these challenges."

The Senate cast 51 roll call votes on the resolution, repeatedly rejecting Democrat amendments that would have added more than \$1 trillion in spending over 10 years - well over the size of the original \$726 billion jobs and growth package.

"At some point this spending has to be brought under control," said Sen. Judd Gregg, Budget Committee member.

The budget includes \$400 billion for a long-promised prescription drugs benefit and a modern, improved health care system for our nation's seniors; expands health insurance opportunities for children and provides the highest funding ever for education programs such as Title I and IDEA; and provides the highest funding ever for veterans health.